

## The Progression of Serving God Eze. 1:28-33

In a small town one night the local church caught on fire. Many of the townspeople came out to help put out the fire. As the pastor was in the crowd the local atheist was spotted watching the church burn down. Pastor said sharply "You picked a fine time to finally come to church tonight. You never had any intent in coming to church before tonight." The atheist said, "Well I've never seen the church on fire before tonight. It's a shame the church is not there." Beginning of Eze. Clebar river captive.

He was 30 and set to bear robes by lineage. Priests start at 30 but He was not in Jeru. or the Temple. He was in exile 900 miles away in a refugee camp. His life seemed wasted. Then three things happened to him and from that moment he became one of the most effective men of God ever planted on earth.

One: an abiding in obedience, service and love for God. E.C. can be set ablaze by following the example of Eze.

I. God Puts us on Our Faces - In the priests description Eze falls over him self to describe (and) it is his fall in on him

spoke lie for his Magis

A. To Humble Us. - Ezekiel was probably  
sarcastic to him self, he was trained  
to be a priest, he spent years  
to be a priest. This just isn't  
fair! he suppose to have a position,  
he suppose to be there at the Temple!

I remember hearing a little children's  
song called "Eye Sickness" That's  
what Eze has until he runs in  
to a vision of God. Nothing like a  
glimpse of him to put your nose in  
the dirt and say what will you have <sup>ask Paul</sup> made

B. To Hone Us. - Hone means to  
sharpen or to bring into focus.

God is redirecting Ezekiel's focus  
off of his broken plans, off of his  
vanished position, and on to his  
brilliant preeminent God. Ezekiel  
would have been looking and focusing on  
the wrong things. God will often break  
us; put our faces on the ground to  
put our attention on Him. He will do  
this by circumstances that force us to  
look to Him.

III. God Places Us on Our Feet.

God didn't leave Eze face down in the  
dirt forever. No he told him to Get  
up, I got something I want to say to

you. With my children I get there often before I talk

A. By His Spirit. He told him to get up, but then in Vs 3. God sends his spirit to lift Eze to his feet. He didn't even have the ability to get up and do what God commanded w/o the spirit of God. The comforter is the one that lifts us up, turns our hearts to hear what God has to say. Eph 5:17 Be filled or controlled by the spirit. You can be prepared for service w/o the empowering, leading, the controlling the comforting of the Holy Ghost.

B. For His Scripture - He raise him up because he wanted to speak with him. God speaks to us today just like he did then through the scriptures. V59-ch 3:1-3. It is a strange visual image but it is seen several times in scripture to eat them, devour them as a meal (P519 Jer 14; Rev 10). Jesus in His temptation said Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that <sup>comes</sup>. In europe meals are long drawn out affairs that take hours. God nowhere we eat fast food going 60 on wheels. Do we do something it <sup>comes</sup> to now?

### III God Points Us to His Field-

The end result of the exposure of his majesty and relaying of his message is to do in his servant do the field of labor

**Jesus said the fields are white unto harvest**

### A. It is a Divine Command - vs 3 a

He has raised and prepared Eze for the task and has now pointed to the field.

Jn 20:21 "As the Father has sent Me so send you. But we say "Lord we have other plans" It's a command from God. Lord I don't want to go there! You've been commanded by God. Lord I'll be rejected. I send thee" Lord it's going to be so difficult!" I send thee Jn 14:1 He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me!

### B. It is Divine Conflict - God commanded Him to Go despite the conflict that lies ahead. God is sending him among a rebellious people that will not hear that will abuse the servants of God, that will mock and despise the truth they hear. Why Go then? Why put this servant through the conflict vs 5 a prophet has been among them. There will be w/o excuse in the day of Judgment.

**IV. Classify** When we see his majesty deliver his message respond to his mission we become the tools of God on this earth for him to work all things out for his Glory on earth